

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

The allowance of claim 13 is acknowledged.

In a telephone interview conducted with the undersigned, the Examiner indicated that (i) the clarification of the radial inner and radial outer skeleton parts as corresponding to the skeleton and spoke respectively and (ii) the addition of the orientation of the direction of radial inner and outer would overcome the immediate prior art with regard to claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to add the above agreed upon clarifications and additions. Thus, claim 1 should be allowable over the cited prior art patent to Donde et al. (US 1,435,501).

Claims 2-7 and 9-12 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over the cited prior art patent to Donde et al. for substantially the same reasons as claim 1 and for the specific limitation recited therein. Thus, claims 2-7 and 9-12 should be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Serial No. 09/963,909

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in
the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account
No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

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